

California Recreational Trails Committee

Minutes

December 7, 2007

9:30 A.M.

Norco City Council Chambers

2820 Clark Avenue, Norco, CA

I. Call to Order and Comments from the Chair

- A. Meeting called to order at 9:35 AM by Maryanne Vancio, Chair
- B. Thanks to staff from the County of Riverside, especially Brian Lowe, Mark Brewer, Dan Nove and John Vint, as well as City of Norco officials Frank Hall and Malcolm Miller for organizing and joining us on the tours yesterday.
- C. Thanks to Jeannie Gillen for bringing CRTC to Norco.
- D. Thanks to the 30 members of the public who are joining us.

II. Introduction of Committee Members (CRTC) and Staff

- A. Greg Gandrud (GG), Member
- B. Jeannie Gillen (JG), Member
- C. John Mercurio (JM), Member
- D. Maryann Vancio (MV), Member
- E. Laura Zabkar (LZ), Member
- F. Paul Romero (PR), Chief Deputy Director, California State Parks (CSP)
- G. Dan Ray (DR), Chief of Planning Division, California State Parks
- H. Kathryn Tobias (KT), Council for CSP
- I. Steve Musillami (SM), Executive Secretary of CRTC / Statewide Trails Manager for CSP
- J. Cheryl Essex (CE), Park and Recreation Specialist for CSP

III. Minutes approval from September 2007 Meeting

- A. Minutes from the September 2007 meeting were moved for approval by JM, seconded by LZ and approved unanimously.

IV. Reports

- A. State Park Director's Report (PR)
 - 1. Current challenges to CSP include the toll road and power lines
 - 2. Mountain bike advocacy actions by IMBA—they would like to see mountain bike trails in every park
 - 3. Ca State Horsemen's Association Conference—working on multi-use trail issues
 - 4. Sandy Creek Bridge completion
 - 5. Pending \$10B State Budget deficit w/ 10% reduction requested by each department (\$19M potential reduction to CSP). Suspect multiple year impact. Waiting for the Jan 10th governor's budget for guidance
 - 6. Prop 84 funding has not been allocated to date
 - 7. Off-highway Vehicle (OHV) Committee and funding has been restructured
 - 8. Proposed conservation area bordering Allensworth SHP
 - 9. GG Question: does this mean an increase in user fees to offset budget cuts? PR answer: let's wait and see the governor's budget. Three options were submitted, one included a fee increase.

10. MV Question: Parks & recreation programs are usually the first to cut. What can the CRTC do to help? PR answer: This is not a targeted reduction to CSP, it's across the board.

B. Statewide Trail Manager's Report (SM)

1. Coastal Trail grant program

- ◆ Glass Beach at MacKerricher SP has sensitive cultural & natural resource issues to resolve
- ◆ Waters Ridge Trail at JP Burns SP will be staked on December 11 & 12. Construction is anticipated to start in January using CCC crews.
- ◆ Garrapata SP trail will parallel the coast near the highway with connections to beaches
- ◆ Final permits being processed for the Elephant Seal boardwalk extension at San Simeon SP

2. JG and JM terms expire January 15, 2008. They are encouraged to apply for reappointment.

3. The 2008 California Trails & Greenways Conference is at the Bahia Resort in San Diego on May 29-31st. Awards information is on the website www.parks.ca.gov/trails/conference. JG asked that consideration be given to extending the conference through Saturday

4. Seven RTP Workshops by CSP Dept of Grants & Local Services will offer free training on how to prepare good grant applications, one will occur the day before the Conference. This year's RTP training will focus on soft surface, urban-paved surface and OHV trails.

C. Member Reports

1. (LZ) Common Ground Ad Hoc Committee met on Nov 10th

- a. Purpose: To create a set of trail use policies and recommendations for public agencies that would serve to resolve conflicts and achieve safe high quality experiences for all users. Committee added a goal of encouraging environmental sustainability.
- b. IMBA representatives have resigned
- c. Work Plan and tasks established, focusing on conducting case studies, sharing trail use successes, meeting with land managers, interviewing trail users and issues and finally producing a set of model policies.
- d. Investigating how to fund committee's work
- e. Proposing a session at the Trails & Greenways Conference
- f. JG: Has the committee changed the focus stated at the conference caucus? Horse & Bike conflicts are primary. LZ answer: In order to provide equal representation, we added hikers who brought new ideas. You are welcome to attend. JG: I think it would be valuable to have the Ad Hoc Committee get back to the focus identified at the 2007 Trails Conference.
- g. JG suggests that the CA Trails & Greenways Foundation may provide some funding and help guide the process

2. JG asked the CRTC to meet in Norco/Riverside County to experience the equestrian community lifestyle and the wonderful Hidden Valley Santa Ana River greenway. She thanked Riverside County staff in

attendance today, including Paul Frandsen, GM/Director of Riverside County Recreation, Park & Open Space District.

3. JM is on the Great CA Delta Trail advisory committee and the advisory committee for East Bay Regional Parks
4. GG had no report

D. Chair Report (MV)

1. CA Riding & Hiking Trail (CRHT)—San Diego County Board of Supervisors approved staff investigations for the purpose of transferring CRHT easements from CSP to the county. Easements are being identified and verified in the field. Surveys are next.

E. Subcommittee Reports

1. CRTC Awards Subcommittee—JM summarized awards listed on the website: www.parks.ca.gov/trails.
2. User Conflict Subcommittee—see update by LZ above. JG thanked staff for their work on multi-use guideline process.
3. Trail Portal Subcommittee—GG notes the need for a good web trail location tool and notes the difficulty of finding funding. He suggests that it should be a public, not commercial, information portal. SM suggests maybe a non-profit partner could be found who could locate/manage grant \$ and begin the process.

V. New Business

A. California Recreational Trails Plan

1. DR outlined the CSP Planning Division's role in preparing the California Recreational Trails Plan (<http://www.parks.ca.gov/pages/1324/files/trails%20plan%20art%20final%203.pmd.pdf>) which focuses on regional trails like Tahoe Rim, Coastal Trail and Santa Ana—filling in the missing links like Sandy Creek, Glass Beach, Santa Suzanna. Our strategy to update the plan includes an outreach effort to and through the CRTC members, a session at the Conference and staff investigations. The California Outdoor Recreation Plan (<http://www.parks.ca.gov/pages/795/files/2002corpsmall.pdf>) outlines the update strategy. The Bay Area Open Space Council website at <http://openspacecouncil.org/guides/parkinfo> is a good example of the type of information we would like to provide.
2. SM summarized the Staff Report (attached) and began the discussion of the draft Program Goals Progress Report (attached). Because of the complexity of the information, PR recommended the discussion continue at a ½ day workshop before next CRTC meeting.
3. Chair Vancio and members agreed by consensus. PR and DR would like to present a draft at the Conference in May.

B. Discuss clarification of motions & subcommittee procedures – KT

- reminded the committee that the bylaws refer to Robert's Rules of Order for conduct of committee business, which is primarily to make recommendations to the CSP Director.
1. JG: How do members place discussion or action items on the agenda?
 2. KT: Committee members work through the chair to develop the agenda. Staff prepares the agenda.

3. PR clarified roles and how action recommendations are taken under consideration by the Director or Governor.

VI. Old Business

- A. Recognition of Tony Look (Adopt-a-Trail)
 1. PR is working with Brian Stein. The Sempervirens Fund has set aside \$11,000 in trust for a Castle Rock to Waddell Creek segment. SM believes it should include interpretive signage about Tony
- B. Multi-Use Guidelines Discussion
 1. SM reiterated that most land managers look to users to find consensus on multi-use issues. Etiquette and courtesy cannot be managed by agencies.
 2. MV hopes we can adopt guidelines for trail use conversions
 3. JG asks that we add Evaluation Tools to the Progress Report. CSP should not open trails to multi-use without guidelines, evaluation and possible modifications for safety.
 4. JG opined that Tapia Spur trail is not currently safe for multi-use and that recommendations for improvements made onsite by the CRTC and park staff 3 years ago should be elevated to a higher level on the "priority list". Can progress be made at Malibu and Auburn? (SM) Malibu Creek is on the list for Road and Trail Management Plan priority.
 5. (SM) CSP is testing a trail conversion evaluation tool at Mt. Tam. Etiquette guidelines have been prepared by user groups. Oroville licensing process includes trail use issues. CSP is evaluating requests by mountain biking groups for more trail miles.
 6. PR expressed concerns about liability for conflicts. There is a huge backlog of maintenance projects at CSP. District priorities determine when the work gets done. Absent user consensus, the legal processes will continue. DR & SM are reluctant to give other land managers guidelines
 7. GG asked the Draft Guidelines of Management of Multi-Use Trails be distributed at the next meeting. This committee should provide agencies some direction.
 8. PR stated that when the state adopts guidelines, we invite lawsuits
 9. (MV) We need to provide generic guidelines to share with other agencies.
 10. PR & SM will look into what it will take to issue design guidelines. Let's depend on the user groups for etiquette guidelines

VII. Presentation

- A. Santa Ana River Parkway by Brian Lowe

VIII. Public Comment

- A. Gesa Brinks asked how motorcycles can be kept off non-motorized trails. It was suggested that she contact law enforcement in her area whenever this is a problem.
- B. Mary Benson discussed the Rim-of-the-Valley Trail and stated that the City of L.A. will add a trails element to their planning tools. She asked that CSP consider having one trail coordinator for this trail instead of three.

- C. Peggy Martin Is concerned about the dismantling of the Los Caballos Horse Camp which she feels has historical value. She plans to nominate it for the National Register of Historic Places and is soliciting funds.
- D. Lynn Brown gave an update on the Common Ground Ad Hoc Committee and asked that the Trails Report consider unpaved urban trails.
- E. Becky Harper would like information on the multi-use guidelines
- F. Frank Hall, Mayor of Norco, thanked the committee for coming to town and supports recognition of Tony Look in some way
- G. Eldona Reasoner Arns is concerned about SoCal Edison limiting trail access on their properties, especially in the City of Chino Hills. MV suggested the City work with SoCalEd to resolve. JG asked Steve to verify current access to Chino Hills State Park.

IX. Next Meeting – February 27, 2008 – Carpinteria, CA

X. Adjournment 12:50 PM